

Introduction to Apologetics

SESSION 7: IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY?

7C: Answering the Challenge to Inerrancy (Part 2)

1. An Argument for Inerrancy Based on God's Goodness and Perfection, Version Three
 - a. There is evidence for a being who is the ultimate standard of goodness.
 - b. This evidence is found in gradations of perfection present in the world, including gradations of moral perfection.
 - c. Such a good and perfect being is God.
 - d. As a good and perfect being, anything he communicates would be consistent with his character.
 - e. The Bible, as a communication from the perfect being, would be consistent with his character.
 - f. It is reasonable to conclude, therefore, that the Bible is inerrant.
2. An Argument for Inerrancy Based on God's Moral Commands
 - a. The Bible includes moral content.
 - b. The Bible's moral content is intertwined with its divine inspiration.
 - c. The Bible's moral content entails that disobeying its directives is the same as disobeying God.
 - d. It would not be just of God to hold people accountable for not following moral directives that cannot be trusted to be without error.
 - e. But God is just, and His justness reflects his goodness.
 - f. Therefore, as far as it is the just and good God who holds people accountable to the moral content of the Bible, so the Bible is necessarily trustworthy and inerrant.
3. An Argument for Inerrancy Even Without the Original Manuscripts
 - a. Not having the original autographs is a fair concern, which is why the manuscript evidence is so important in determining what the Bible originally contained.
 - b. The manuscript evidence is both numerically strong and correlatively accurate (i.e., the sheer number of manuscripts and the symmetry of the message across them).
 - c. It is reasonable to conclude that the manuscripts of Scripture provide an accurate presentation of God's Word.
 - d. Given the accurateness of Scripture, the goodness of God is both revealed in the text and demonstrated by his preservation of the message in reliable manuscripts.
 - e. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that God is good, and his Word is a reliable presentation of his goodness and may be trusted as inerrant.

